5 JANUARY 1979

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TRANSLATIONS ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY,
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
(FOUO 1/79)









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TRANSLATIONS ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

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WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

JAPAN LOAN TO MADAGASCAR--Japan has extended a yen loan of up to 4.5 yen billion to Madagascar for construction of microwave communication facilities, the Foreign Ministry announced Saturday. The Ministry said notes to the effect were exchanged Saturday between Teruhiko Nakamura, Japanese ambassador to Madagascar, and C. R. Richard, minister of Foreign Affairs of Madagascar. [Tokyo THE DAILY YOMIURI in English 19 Nov 73 p 4 OW]

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INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

'VNA' RELEASES CAMBODIAN NEWS AGENCY'S APPEAL

Hanoi VNA in Vietnamese to VNA Ho Chi Minh City 0840 GMT 3 Dec 78 OW

[Text] Today, 3 December 1978, the Vietnam News Agency is very happy and has the honor to inform its compatriots of the birth of the Kampuchean United Front for National Salvation [KUFFNS] and of the front's news agency, Saporamean Kampuchea--the Kampuchean News Agency or SPK as an acronym.

Warmly welcoming this great historic event, we have the honor to introduce to you the SPK appeal [lowif ra maats] and the first important documents of the front.

The following is the SPK appeal:

Respectful salutations to colleages and friends worldwide:

Beginning at 0400 GMT today, (3 December 1978), Saporamean Kampuchea, (SPK as an acronym), starts broadcasting from the liberated area of our (?beloved) Kampuchean fatherland daily news bulletins on 8,864 kcs in the 1100 hours (0400 GMT) cast and on 9,255 kcs in the 2130 hours (1430 GMT) cast.

SPK, the official news agency of the KUFFNS Central (?Committee), wishes to convey to its colleagues and friends worldwide its first news bulletin on the KUFFNS emergence. This historic event of our country reflects the aspiration, will and increasingly developing forces of all struggling Kampuchean people who are determined to rise up to topple the reactionary, nepotist Pol Pot-Ing Sary clique--lackeys for foreign reactionary forces; to do away with its cruel, bloody regime; to set up a people's democratic system; to develop the Angkor tradition; to turn Kampuchea into a truly peaceful, independent, democratic, neutral and nonalined country advancing to socialism; and to make positive contributions to the common struggle for peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

As the official spokesman of the KUFFNS Central Committee, SPK will carry out its activities in accordance with the front's statement which is included in this SPK news bulletin [baanr tin].

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SPK earnestly calls on its colleagues and on all friends of the Kampuchean people and Kampuchea worldwide to support it in every aspect. Operating under difficult conditions in the beginning in the liberated area of our fatherland, SPK very much hopes that fraternal and friendly news agencies and international and regional news agencies will earnestly cooperate with it and transmit broadly its news and photos. We convey our sincere thanks to our friends.

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INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

JAPAN'S ELECTRONICS FIRMS FROWN ON PRC OFFER IN TV PLANT DEAL

OW200609Y Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 18 Nov 78 Morning Edition p 6 OM---

[Excerpts] According to a disclosure by Japan-China trade sources, China recently informally proposed the use of a production-sharing method in its purchase of assembly plants for color television receivers from Japan. The methods, if adopted, would call for payment in products.

Japanese firms which have been preparing to bid in the television plant deal, including Hitachi Seisakujo, Tokyo Shibaura Denkd, Matsushita Denkd Sangyo, Sanyo Denki and Sharp Kansai Kaden, are unanimously reluctant to go along with the Chinese offer for reasons relating to quality control. Some of them may even abandon their plan to take part in the bidding.

Hitachi Seisakujo and Tokyo Shibaura Denki have already jointly acquired the PRC orders for assembly plants for picture tubes and integrated circuits.

PRC plans for color television receivers are part of the four modernization programs. Under these plans, a new plant for 14-inch and 20-inch picture tubes is to be built in Hsinyang in the cutskirts of Sian city, while another new plant for integrated circuits will be built in Wuhsi in Kiangsu Province. The production capacity for picture tubes will be 960,000 units per year, and production itself is expected to begin in December 1980. Meanwhile, the construction of the integrated circuits plant is scheduled to begin as soon as the approval of the Cocom (Coordination Committee on Exports to Communist Countries) is obtained.

It oppears that the Chinese proposal has been prompted by a consideration involving China's foreign exchange holdings. The assembly plant deal amounts to approximately 10 billion yen. The orders already received for plants for picture tubes, integrated circuits and glass for picture tubes respectively are worth 15 billion, 15 billion and 13 billion yen. This means that China's total payment to Japan in the television industry area alone would be as much as 53 billion yen.

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HITACHI TO ENTER U. S. GENERAL PURPOSE COMPUTER MARKET

Tokyo NIKKAN KOGYO SHINBUN in Japanese 11 Nov 78 p 7

[Article: "Project Team To Be Formed To Study Strategy and Types of Machines and Draw Conclusions Within This Year"]

[Text] Hitachi Limited (president, Hiroyoshi Yoshiyama) has decided on a policy to enter sales of general purpose computers in the American market as one phase of its computer industry development. A project team has been formed at the computer industry headquarters (chief of headquarters, Masami Nagafuji), which is presently studying sales strategy and the types of machines to be offered, and it is expected to submit its conclusions within this year. This company is planning to invade the American market, which is the stronghold of the world's foremost computer manufacturer IBM, with its own brand of computers as the top goal in its development plan for the next year, and this line of action on the part of Hitachi, which is one of the foremost computer manufacturers in Japan, may cause some major reverberations in the computer industry, both domestic and abroad.

This company has designated its computer industry as a strategic industry with plans to firm its position in the domestic market. It is also developing its foreign market.

This company entered into a sales contract with the computer leasing company of the United States, the Aitel Company (based in San Francisco, California), to let said company handle its large computers, which will be marketed under their trade name (OEM). It introduced its No 1 computer (equivalent of M-180, to be marketed as AS 6) to A Company's technical support center, and this has been the starting point for the export of an average of five to six units per month. This A Company is selling this computer in both the United States and Canada.

In this manner Hitachi has already made some inroads in its study of the American market through the introduction of the OEM lime. To this end, this company has been making continuous surveys on marketing strategy, methods and areas. What has led to this present course of deciding to invade the American market has been the solidification of the M series

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general purpose computer's domestic market position, together with the decision that an incursion into the world's largest market, the American, is paramount to bolstering their own image in its strategy for developing overseas computer markets.

Added to some preliminary surveys that had been made in the past, it was to this end that the project team was formed to become the center of the final step that will select the type of computers to be marketed and lay the sales strategy for the specific implementation of this sales program, and it will come up with a concrete strategy by next spring.

Since there are no "limiting conditions" to the OEM contract with A Company, there are some questions of trust that may arise with promoting sales of products of its own brands, but other than that, no major problems are expected in such a promotion. As a result, it now has been definitely decided that Hitachi will enter the American market next Japanese fiscal year.

Mitsubishi Electric and Nippon Electric have already set up on-site sales companies for their office computer products in the United States, and will start sales next year. Fujitsu is studying the introduction of its general purpose computer in a manner not unlike Hitachi.

In this manner, Hitachi's incursion into the stronghold of IBM, which is presently waging a massive assault on the Japanese market, will probably create a massive impact on the electronic computer industries both at home and abroad.

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HITACHI ANNOUNCES FACSIMILE STRATEGY

Tokyo NIKKAN KOGYO SHINBUN in Japanese 4 Oct 78 p 16

[Text] Hitachi, Ltd. (Hiroyoshi Yoshiyama, president) clearly stated on 3 October its strategy for the coming facsimile battle and its developmental policy. Specifically, (1) exports will be centered on contracts for overseas customer trademark products (OEM), (2) products that are standardized, popularly used, and of high quality will be diversified and customers will be offered a free, wide range selection, and (3) market prices have dropped and consequently the number of customers has increased so efforts will be directed at developing machines almost at the level of household electrical appliances and at volume sales. Contracts have been signed or are being negotiated with two American companies and one European country for exports as OEM. The first such export will be to the U.S. Telauto Company, and it is expected that an annual export of 2,000-3,000 sets will commence at the end of this year. This present policy seems to be lending emphasis to the development of an intelligent facsimile, a fascimile computer terminal using ordinary paper and the inkjet technique, and the development of 5 to 10 second super high speed units in the future plans.

Since March of this year, Hitachi has been marketing eight types of high speed units (1 Minute units) as well as a medium speed "HIFAX 341" that conforms to the GII specifications of the International Telephone and Telegraph Consultative Committee (CCITT), and it is proceeding to secure its position in the facsimile industry. According to the company, sales are increasing regularly and it is currently increasing the production capacity of its Totsuka plant.

The company arrived at the position that (1) the interconnection of different facsimile systems is now possible, (2) the industry is seeing advances

in group network usage by firms, to include affiliates and (3) usage by medium and small businesses as well as by individually owned businesses has increased. There has been remarkable development in this vein. Furthermore, it is expected that just one more step is needed to introduce this technology to the general public through a public facsimile network using the home facsimile "manifax" that is being planned by Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Public Corporation [NTT], and Hitachi has reassessed its industrial strategy.

According to Hitachi's current basic policy, exports aimed at the United States and Europe mainly on the line of OEM will be taken up in earnest should trade talks seem encouraging. A contract has already been drawn up (sale of facsimiles, maintenance, and some production) at the rate of 2,000-3,000 units per year, and shipments will begin by the end of the year. Negotiations are close to the signing stage with another U.S. company and one in Europe. Test exports will be initiated next spring, and here again, the contracts are expected to be in the 2,000-3,000 per year scala.

Also, the production and sale of the already-introduced business use facsimiles is planned, while high class units that will cater to the user's wishes will be proliferated. Developments in inkjet facsimiles using ordinary paper, color facsimile, intelligent facsimile, and super high speed units will be promoted to this end. Sales of intelligent facsimile units are slated to start in 1980.

On the other hand, should sales of NTT's minifax start in earnest, the use of facsimiles by the general public will become practical. As a result, mass production and sales would result in facsimiles almost on the level of household electrical appliances. Hence, putting effort into products aimed at mass sales is intended.

In this manner Hitachi, which has gradually emerged as a power in the facsimile area, has displayed its strategy, and this seems to have been a great stimulus to the other companies.

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JA PAN

HITACHI M-200H SHIPMENTS TO START IN LATTER HALF OF 1979

Tokyo NIKKAN KOGYO SHINBUN in Japanese 6 Sep 78 p 12

[Text] Hitachi Ltd. (president Hiroyoshi Yoshiyama) has completed development of its super-large electronic computer "m-100H" and will initiate shipments in the second half of 1979, according to an announcement released on 5 September. This M-200H represents the top unit of this company's regular M series computers that can compete with IBM's super large 3033, thereby classing it with the world's largest and fastest machines.

The M-200H's internal processing speed is so high that it operates two and a half to three times as fast as the M-180. In addition, its combination with a large capacity high speed disk drive (memory capacity 317.2 MB x 2 units) and high speed printer (2,000 lines/min) high performance peripheral equipment enabled setup of a system with a good balance between hardware and software.

The central processor has a main memory of a maximum of 16 MB and is provided with 16 channels. A multiprocessor configuration of a maximum of 4 processors is possible.

At the same time, an internal array processor (IAP) can be added to improve its science and technology computing processing capability, and this enables a maximum four-fold speed increase in processing time compared to the usual modes. In another direction, LSI with logic element of 550 gates per chip and memory element of 16 KB per chip LSI are used to improve system speed and reliability, thereby bringing this system to the world's top level in speed.

Operation is greatly facilitated by the use of a console service processor which includes a 20-inch color display. There are two types of operating systems (OS): VOS3 and VOS3. The VOS 3 in particular employs a mass virtual memory mode that is designed to exploit the capability of high traffic and high degree of multiplexing job processing.

The system is designed to enable efficient use of various software tools such as online support programs (TMS) and data management systems (ADM), which are said to greatly reduce maintenance costs. The units are leased on a monthly basis beginning at 36 million yen per month. "Joint research" on the M series general-purpose computers has been promoted since JFY 1972 by Fujitsu and Hitachi under a government subsidy as a competitor to the IBM 370, but the present developments are independent efforts by these two companies.

On the other hand, IBM announced its 303X series last spring and last fall. At the same time, it greatly reduced the price of its 370. Thus, IBM dealt the domestic industries a major blow. In retaliation, Fujitsu announced its top level M-200 in mid-January. The M-200 represents a one and a half to one and four-fifth's increase in capabilities over the M-190 and is said to even exceed that of IBM's top machine, the 3033.

To counter these developments, Hitachi just announced its H-200H. Both of these announcements represented in part the role of government subsidies and grants. The government is a participant in a three party development of super high performance computers with Fujitsu and Hitachi.

In any event, the war for orders is expected to be spurred on against the IBM 303X series as the result of the announcements on the development of super large computers by two of this country's largest makers.

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JA PAN

TOYOTA ACQUIRES 1BM 3033 FOR COMPUTERIZED BODY DESIGN

Tokyo NIKKAN KOGYO SHINBUN in Japanese 1 Sep 78 p 11

[Text] Toyota Motor Co., Ltd., has been conducting research on CAD (body design support system) that will enable direct transition from original design to the metal form without first making a clay model and thereby eliminate several steps in the process of new automobile development. The company announced on 31 August that it had acquired a super-large electronic computer, IBM 3033, which will be introduced into its manufacturing system as one phase of this research program. The CAD that this company is promoting is said to reduce the number of production steps by about half. The system should also reduce production costs when completed. The automobile industry looks upon the system with great interest as the next generation system. The 3033 has a maximum capacity of eight million bytes and processing capability of 58 nanoseconds that puts it in the top class. Its introduction is expected to bring this research one step closer to practical realization.

Under the system presently employed by this company, in developing a new automobile the makeup of the original design is done first. This design is the basis for a full size wooden model, called a clay model, made before the metal vehicle is constructed. As a result, considerable time and effort are required before the metal model is constructed, and at least 3 to 4 years are required from the time research on a given automobile is initiated until the new model makes its appearance.

Now the CAD that this company is currently promoting is said to enable a direct transition from the original design to the metal model without going through the clay model stage, and reportedly both time and labor are cut in half.

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The IBM 3033 introduced in this present round not only advances CAD research one step further but was acquired in part because the SMS (parts list computerization system) processing system introduced in JFY 1973 could no longer be adequately handled with the IBM 370-168. The 3033 has a maximum capacity of 8 million bytes and processing capacity of 58 nanoseconds, roughly twice the performance of the 168, belongs to the world's top class of computers. To date, deliveries of [the 3033] have been set up for Shikoku Electric Power and Ote Life Insurance Company, but Toyota Motor Company will be the first manufacturer to use it.

Toyota believes that the introduction of the 3033 will soon effect practical solutions to many problems encountered by the automobile industry.

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SEVEN FIRMS TO FORM OPERATING SYSTEM R & D ASSOCIATION

Tokyo NIKKAN KOGYO SHINBUN in Japanese 29 Sep 78 p 15

[Text] The proposal to bring together seven domestic makers as the main body to engage in development of computer software (operating system = OS), an entity the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) is planning to set up in JFY 1979, has taken the lead. The present plan is to set up a "Basic Technology Development and Research Association" (provisional name) next spring to serve as the organ to develop this OS. and the group will consist of the five domestic makers: Fujitsu, Hitachi Ltd., Nippon Electric, Mitsubishi Electric, and Toshiba along with the developmental organ of VLSI, Combined Computer Laboratory (Fujitsu, Hitachi, Mitsubishi), and NEC-Toshiba Information Systems (Nippon Electric, Toshiba) for a total of seven companies. To this end, 70 billion yen will be allotted over the next five years for research on more than 10 themes such as a Japanese language information system, super virtual memory, and software onelevel storage.

The establishment of the "subsidy system for research and development on the next generation computer" is a major pillar in the new computer policy that MITI plans for JFY 79. This may be called the new follow-on policy following research and development of the VLSI that will end in JFY 1979. This is a system that proposes to grant subsidies to the makers who will develop the OS for the next generation computer that will use the VLSI. It is planned to have the government put up 35 billion yen over a five year period, which will be matched by an equal 35 billion yen from private sources for a total of 70 billion yen.

Of this amount, 55 billion yen is to go for OS development and 15 billion yen for peripherals and terminals. For the first year, 2.3 billion yen will be budgeted, 1.7 billion yen for the OS and 60 million yen for peripherals and terminals.

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The major problems in OS development have been (1) how to position the two industrial groups that have been involved in VLSI development and (2) whether to use a five company system for industrial participation or treat Nippon Electric and Toshiba as single company and let the joint company, NTIS, participate in a four company setup.

On the other hand, in the talks between MITI and industry strong feelings were expressed that the "OS project is only an extension of VLSI development," and, furthermore, the OS project involves more than 10 times of development: as a result, the areas to be covered by the different companies would not be the same, and consequently impetuous plans to centralize the industry might not be prudenc. This rationale resulted in settling on a seven company system.

There is still considerable time before the final decisions are made, and a number of problems still need to be resolved. It seems probable that the eventual decision will be toward a seven company system.

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JAPAN

JAPANESE MINISTRY TO AUTHORIZE NEW RADIO, UHF TV STATIONS

Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 22 Nov 78 morning edition p 3 OW

[Text] The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications on 21 November briefed the Radio Regulatory Council on its tentative plan to authorize the establishment of four private FM radio stations and three private UHF television stations. According to the plan, Hokkaido and Miyagi, Shizuoka and Hiroshima prefectures will get one FM radio station each (prefectural service) and Shizuoka, Kumamoto and Kagoshima prefectures one UHF TV station each. The ministry will hold public hearings on the plan through approximately 10 December, then formally refer it to the Radio Regulatory Council for deliberation before adopting a final decision on the channel allocation plan by the end of the year.

The new FM radio frequencies will he: 80.4 MHz for Hokkaido, 77.1 MHz for Miyagi Prefecture, 79.2 MHz for Shizuoka Prefecture and 78.2 MHz for Hiroshima Prefecture.

Shizuoka, classified as a "semi-basic area" for broadcasting purposes, will get the fourth private UHF TV station in the prefecture, while Kumamoto and Kagoshima will be added to the list of "semi-basic areas" to get their third private UHF stations in their respective prefectures. The channels for the new TV stations will be 31 for Shizuoka, 22 for Kumamoto and 32 for Kagoshima.

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JAPAN

MITI WANTS TO EXCLUDE 30 PERCENT OF SOFTWARE INCOME FROM TAX

Tokyo NIKKAN KOGYO SHINBUN in Japanese 16 Oct 78 p 1

[Text] With the intention of establishing a "special tax exemption system for income relating to multi-use software transactions (software promotion tax system)" next year, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) has begun negotiating with the Ministry of Finance. According to the disclosure made by the MITI, the said exemption system seeks to tax exempt 30 percent of income resulting from transactions involving the mulciuse softwares that are registered with the Data Processing Promotion Businesses Association and incidental technical services (confined to those services performed by technicians that have passed the data processor qualification test). Its aim is to combat the sales offensive by the foreign capital computer manufacturers led by IBM, as well as to rapidly establish an environment receptive to commercialization of computer software. Opposition from the Finance Ministry, intent on increasing the tax revenue, is anticipated. However, the MITI is planning to apply strong pressure to realize the tax exemption system in order to implement the Software Promotion Decision, a supplementary provision to the Law on Temporary Measures for Upgrading Specified Machinery and Information Industries appended at the time of the latter's promulgation. The probable outcome is that the final settlement will be a political one.

Relative to the total data processing cost, the software cost ratio is increasing rapidly. It is said that by the end of 1984 when the effective statute of limitation for the Law on Temporary Measures for Upgrading Specified Machinery and Information Industries expires, the ratio is expected to reach 80 to 90 percent of the total cost. Therefore, the establishment of a software market based on commercially profitable software services has become an urgent necessity.

However, in order to compete with IBM, the domestic manufacturers have traditionally employed a sales tactic based on "no cost software services." This action necessarily led them to underplay the qualitative hardware differences and "brand image" differences. Thus, unless there is some form of strong incentive, it would be difficult to suddenly change the sales policy, to affix price on softwares and to commercialize them. Furthermore,

due to the technological lag, the domestic computer manufacturers' softwares are markedly inferior to those of IBM in their functional capabilities. And while IBM is expected to introduce epoch-making softwares in conjunction with the system for the next period, the truth of the matter is that the domestic computer manufacturers do not have comparable softwares.

For these reasons, the MITI is attempting to establish an income tax exemption system as a strong incentive for securing a market place environment for commercialized softwares.

The exemption ration will be 30 percent of income derived from transactions involving multi-use softwares and incidental technical services. Inasmuch as the Finance Ministry is striving to increase tax revenues, negotiations over the establishment of the said exemption system is expected to encounter difficulties. It is certain that the final decision will be made in the political arena.

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

COMMUNICATIONS EXPERTS ISSUE FINAL DOCUMENT

PAC90404Y Havana PREIA in Spanish 2250 GMT 8 Dec 78 PA--FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[By Omar Sepulveda]

[Text] Panama City, 8 Dec (PL)--Experts on communications in Latin America reiterated today their concern over the project for technical aid in communications proposed by the United States to the developing countries. This project is to be analyzed in Washington in April. This concern is stated in the final document approved by 24 area experts at the conclusion in this capital today of a conference convoked by UNESCO.

The experts noted that the meeting announced by the U.S. Government "could entail new and more dangerous mechanisms of dependence for Third World countries."

In this regard they recommended to UNESCO Director General Amadou Mahtar Mbow that he take to that meeting ideas which will guarantee the participation of communication researchers in the institutional mechanism of systematic consultations on the needs, activities and plans related to the development of communications to be established there. The experts also believe that it is absolutely necessary for the states of the region to consider and prepare a strategy on the forthcoming redefinition [redefinicion] and redistribution of radio frequencies to take place in Geneva in September 1979.

In this regard, they recommended the promotion of high-level Jonsultation meetings among the Latin American and Caribbean countries to establish common strategies and to agree on the distribution of frequences in the region in order to present a united front before the big technological and geopolitical options. The experts also proposed the holding of meetings with experts from the nonalined countries for the purpose of developing a common front of struggle against efforts to legitimize the present situation and against the possibility of more plundering and new forms of international domination. They also asked UNESCO to recognize the Latin American association of communication researchers as a nongovernmental organization and to assign funds for the development of the national centers that compose it.

With regard to professional training the experts recommended the establishment or reorientation of schools where training it given in communications theory and research and the avoidance of a proliferation of journalism training schools by modifying the existing ones in accordance with the availability of teachers and the true needs of the society that they must serve. The experts also recommended research on freedom of expression, of

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expressing one's thoughts [emision del pensamiento] and of the press, and the preparation of a prospectus on a redefinition of the freedom of expression based on a new right to communicate and international law on the subject so as to support the creation of a new international order regarding communications. The meeting, which opened on Monday, was closed today by Rafael Bolivar Ayala, communications media director of the [Panamanian] Government and Justice Ministry, and by Antonio Pasquali, assistant director of the culture and communications office of UNESCO.

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

UNESCO INFORMATION RESOLUTION CHOICES DISCUSSED

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 22 Nov 78 pp 37-38

[Article by Sophie Bessis: "The Price of an Agreement"]

[Text] The blocs confronting one another in UNESCO on the problems of information are moving toward a compromise. But the final text risks being considerably sweetened.

Paris. -- Are the 144 member states of UNESCO finally on the path of a general consensus concerning the famous draft declaration on means of information?

No moves had yet been made at the opening of the 20th session of the General Conference which is carrying on its work in Paris until 28 November. In the three camps present, the Third World, the Western countries, and the countries of the East, the atmosphere leaned to pessimism and they doubted that they could reach agreement on a subject which has been in the forefront for six years.

The problems relating to information and media continue to cause much ink to flow and to monopolize the attention of all the participants and observers at the conference. But necessity is the mother of invention and the delegates were actually agreed on one single point: to arrive at a consensus at any cost to preserve "the spirit of Nairobi" and not to tarnish the image of UNESCO by the spectacle of a public confrontation among the different blocs.

The marathon then unfolded at two times. In a first phase the most varied rumors made the rounds on the fate reserved for this draft which had been discussed and recast every two years and ... sent back every time: it was going to be definitively buried; it would be postponed to the 21st session, which will take place in 1980 in Belgrade; it would be rejected by the Westerners and would then have no value since it was not adopted unanimously. But the nonalined let it be known that they would consider as a snub the

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Western refusal to take into account their aspirations for a "new international order in information." As for the director of UNESCO, Mahtar M'Bow, he used all his weight to reconcile opposing points of view.

But is this possible without ending up with a declaration which has become insignificant? For the Westerners, the reference to state control of the means of consorship and the possibility of transforming the media into means of propaganda. The defenders of the draft have rather diluted their wine in the past two years, to the great injury of the Soviets moreover. While that presented at Nairobi in 1976 granted a clear preeminence to the state in the broadcasting and control of information, the present text affirms respect for freedom of information and reduces the role initially devolving upon the authorities without suppressing it entirely. There have therefore been concessions, but deemed to be insufficient by the Europeans and the Americans pushed by their own press onto the path of firmness.

After the first few days, when each had the opportunity to test the intentions of his opposite numbers, there were intense conversations in the corridors among the delegations, a proliferation of amendments, the creation of a "group to study the draft." Several meetings took place to try to arrive at a compromise based on a second draft more in conformity with the Western desires. In this atmosphere every "hard" official statement was shaded by much more conciliatory private or official remarks, and for several days the main obstacles to a consensus have been lifted. The Tunisian Mr Mustapha Masmoudi, spokesman of the nonalined and one of the "founding fathers" of the draft, even lets it be understood that the countries of the Third World are not insisting on emphasizing absolutely the role of the state in the final version.

The development in the attitude of the United States has been the determining factor in working out an agreement. Fiercely hostile to the draft from the beginning, it acquired the favors of the Third World through a double operation. The American delegate J. Reinhardt took care in his speech of 3 November to leave the door open to the negotiations by not hurling any anathemas, and announced that his country was going to contribute considerably to the development of information infrastructures in the developing countries. That could only please the interested parties. This statement provoked a relief close to euphoria and Mr M'Bow, in his reply in the general political debate "took note with satisfaction of the constructive spirit" of the American commitments. At the last minute, however, the Europeans submitted a new text which must be discussed before the final debate on 16 November; theatrical displays therefore cannot be excluded. But it remains that the climate seems propitious to the conclusion of an agreement.

One may well wonder if everyone is confident of the foreseeable outcome of this business, which in the beginning threatened to become the abscess of fixation of divergences among the different groups, as the problem of the exclusion from UNESCO of Israel was a short time ago. Not quite. It

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seems first of all that the Soviets and the Eastern countries as a whole, who originated the draft and became its most ardent defenders, have been progressively excluded from the discussions. Looking at it closely, this is not by chance. The direct link established between the new international economic order and information, making the latter a chapter in the North-South dialog, and the insistence with which the accent has been placed on financial and technical aid in the development of the media in the Third World have strongly contributed to pushing them onto the sidelines. The more flexible attitude of the United States moreover may well be explained by the desire to break the common front of the nonalined countries with the socialist countries which had been established. A successful operation, it seems, and during the course of the discussions, the tripartite bargaining was transformed into a dialog, which seemed to soothe everyone, except for those who were spurned. The quasi-exclusion of the socialist countries eased the search for a compromise to the extent that, more than their partners in the Third World, they insisted on affirming the role of the state in the dissemination of information; as for the Third World, the latest turn of events enables it to hope for substantial financial aid in a field dear to its heart.

The second group of malcontents, which makes no bones about admitting it, is the American press as a whole: it is the hue and cry since the government in Washington decided to place no further obstacle to the adoption of the declaration. It attracted the thunderbolts of the editorial writers of the big papers which for some days were in a state of war against UNESCO and against the official position of their country. "No to UNESCO," headlined the New York Times recently, stressing that the most precious rights of the Western democracies would not be the subject of compromise and rebuking the West for having "yielded" to Third World and Soviet demands. The defense of freedom of the press, threatened in their eyes by the probable conclusion of the agreement, continues to occupy "the one," despite the repeated assurances of the executive branch.

The stakes are nevertheless less important than they were, for this tale of episodes risks being settled with a declaration devoid of all real content.

That finally appears to be the price which both sides are ready to pay in a laborious negotiation on a subject which, in the general opinion, cannot long remain in suspense without becoming embarrassing.

It remains to be seen whether it will not, because of its ambiguity, displease everyone instead of satisfying all the interested parties.

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